

Murdoch media's continuing campaign for the GSK Bexsero meningococcal B vaccine product

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To: Andrew Wilson <a.wilson@sydney.edu.au>

Cc: PBAC@health.gov.au, "Hunt, Greg (MP)" <Greg.Hunt.MP@aph.gov.au>, "Boyley, Matthew" <Matthew.Boyley@health.gov.au>, ATAGI Secretariat <atagi.secretariat@health.gov.au>

For the attention of:
Professor Andrew Wilson
Chair, Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC)

Professor Wilson, the Murdoch media continues to campaign to have the GSK Bexsero meningococcal B vaccine product listed on Australia's taxpayer-funded coercive vaccination schedule, see more articles on this matter, i.e. **'Dear Prime Minister, please stop this killer'** (The Sunday Telegraph, 18 August 2019), and **'Family pleas for support to get B vaccine on the free national schedule'** (NewsLocal, 12 August 2019). (See copies attached.)

I have previously outlined the Murdoch media/News Corp's conflict of interest in its promotion of the GSK Bexsero meningococcal B vaccine product, i.e. News Corp's association with the Murdoch Children's Research Institute which is involved with GlaxoSmithKline/Novartis-funded research on the Bexsero meningococcal B vaccine product. (See my email to you dated 13 August 2019).

It's appalling that the deeply conflicted Murdoch media/News Corp continues to campaign to undermine the supposedly independent Pharmaceutical Benefits and Advisory Committee, and its evaluation of vaccine products for the taxpayer-funded vaccination schedule.

This whole matter is disastrously compromised by conflicts of interest, particularly the lobbying of the deeply conflicted Murdoch tabloids and Prime Minister Scott Morrison's promotion of this Murdoch-associated GlaxoSmithKline vaccine product, which is likely to generate billions of dollars' worth of global sales if it is added to vaccination schedules around the world.

As raised in my previous email, Rupert Murdoch and Scott Morrison met over lunch in 2015, around the time the No Jab, No Pay bill was being raised - ***did Rupert Murdoch exert any influence over then Social Services Minister Scott Morrison in regards to the No Jab, No Pay bill, which was subsequently fast-tracked and enacted as law in January 2016? Rupert Murdoch has immense power over the political process in Australia - is he pulling the strings in regards to coercive vaccination policy?***

Reporting on the Federal Election outcome this year, The Sydney Morning Herald asks **"Did the Murdoch press sway the election?"**, noting that former Prime Minister Kevin Rudd said: ***"Murdoch, with 70 per cent control of Australia's print media, ran the single most biased campaign in Australian political history. Reason for the silence? People are in fear or Murdoch's power"***.^[1]

The SMH notes the Murdoch newspapers' front pages and columnists ***"were almost uniformly glowing in their praise of Prime Minister Scott Morrison" and that "every Murdoch paper editorialised in favour of the Coalition on election eve"***. The Murdoch newspapers got behind Scott Morrison, and now the Murdoch tabloids are demanding Prime Minister Scott Morrison 'fund the jab', i.e. the GSK Bexsero meningococcal B vaccine product associated with the Murdoch Children's Research Institute. ***Is Prime Minister Scott Morrison now beholden to the Murdoch empire and obligated to 'fund the jab' as the Murdoch tabloids demand?***

Jane Hansen's **'Dear Prime Minister, please stop this killer'** article reports on Prime Minister Scott Morrison's response, in which he seems to take for granted that the GSK Bexsero meningococcal B vaccine product is a 'magic bullet' to prevent this disease. Scott Morrison says: "We want to do everything possible to help all those people who face meningococcal and ***we'll get it listed on the National Immunisation Program as a matter of priority as soon as the independent doctors (on the PBAC) who make the decision on its effectiveness give it the green light"***. (My emphasis.)

Professor Wilson, **is Mr Morrison pre-empting the PBAC's decision here? It seems you are under significant political pressure to add the GSK Bexsero meningococcal B vaccine product to the taxpayer-funded schedule. It's a serious matter that the PBAC is being lobbied by the Murdoch media and Prime Minister Scott Morrison to add the GSK Bexsero vaccine product to the taxpayer-funded schedule, the 'independence' and objectivity of the PBAC is now seriously compromised.** The quality of the data you are considering in your review of this product is also in question - is this independent and objective data, or is it associated with the vaccine manufacturer GlaxoSmithKline/Novartis? **I have asked you previously if this data is openly accessible for public perusal, but received no response.**

Jane Hansen's article, notes **"The Sunday Telegraph has campaigned to get Bexsero on the free schedule because it has been registered by the Therapeutic Goods Administration as safe and effective to help prevent invasive meningococcal B disease since 2013."** (My emphasis.)

This raises the question, **how did the TGA register the GSK Bexsero meningococcal B vaccine product as being "safe and effective to help prevent invasive meningococcal B disease"** when, according to the PBAC July 2015 outcomes document:

"The PBAC rejected the re-submission requesting listing of the 4CMenB vaccine on the NIP Schedule for the prevention of meningococcal B disease in infants and adolescents. The basis of the rejection was that the re-submission did not address multiple uncertainties in relation to the clinical effectiveness of the vaccine against the disease when delivered in a vaccination program, that the use of optimistic assumptions about the extent and duration of effect and herd immunity as raised by the PBAC in previous consideration of this vaccine were not addressed, and the unacceptably high and uncertain ICER, presented in the re-submission." (My emphasis.)

The PBAC also rejected the clinical claim: "superior in terms of comparative effectiveness, with an acceptable tolerability profile in infants and adolescents", saying

"Not accepted. The PBAC reaffirmed its November 2013 and July 2014 conclusions that the vaccine is effective in inducing antibodies against the component antigens of 4CMenB. However, in the context of a population-based intervention against invasive meningococcal B disease, the Committee considered the clinical claim was highly uncertain because of the likely short persistence of the antibody response in children, uncertainty about the correlation between antibody responses and protection, the unknown effect on carriage of the bacteria, the overall uncertain long-term protective efficacy against infection and disease, and the unknown influence of projected herd immunity effects on overall disease burden. These issues were not addressed in the resubmission, although the PBAC acknowledged the limitations of the evidence base". (My emphasis.)

The PBAC also rejected the economic claim: "cost-utility analysis against no vaccination", saying:

"Not accepted. The PBAC noted that the submission had not addressed the previous concerns of the PBAC in regards to the model, namely uncertain and optimistic assumptions about the extent and duration of effect and herd immunity. The PBAC was also concerned with the discounting rate applied in the model that considerably favoured the 4CMenB vaccine. The PBAC considered that none of the proposed program options were cost-effective as presented in the submission". (My emphasis.)

Given the 'multiple uncertainties' identified by the PBAC, how did the TGA previously conclude that the GSK Bexsero meningococcal B vaccine product was safe and fit for its intended purpose?^[2] Of course the TGA is conflicted too, as this 'regulatory body' is funded by industry.^[3]

The TGA's registration of the GSK Bexsero vaccine product and the PBAC's current supposedly 'independent' evaluation of this product is a debacle, this whole matter is disastrously compromised by conflicts of interest, including the lobbying of the deeply conflicted Murdoch tabloids and Prime Minister Scott Morrison's promotion of this Murdoch-associated vaccine product.

Professor Wilson, with serious conflicts of interest shrouding vaccination policy, the entire evaluation process for taxpayer-funded vaccine products must be subjected to urgent review, particularly in light of Federal and State governments now mandating these ever-increasing vaccination and revaccination medical interventions for children to access benefits.

I request acknowledgement of this email and your urgent response to the matters raised in this and [my previous emails](#).

Sincerely
Elizabeth Hart

Independent citizen challenging the over-use of vaccine products and conflicts of interest in vaccination policy

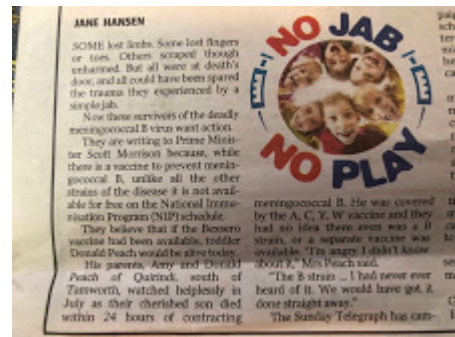
References:

- 1. 'Unrelentingly partisan': Did the Murdoch press sway the election? The Sydney Morning Herald, 25 May 2019.
- 2. "The TGA is responsible for ensuring that therapeutic goods available for supply in Australia are safe and fit for their intended purpose." What the TGA regulates webpage (current as at 22 August 2019).
- 3. TGA - Fees and payments webpage (current as at 22 August 2019).

5 attachments



'Dear PM Please stop this killer' p1.jpg
1242K




'Dear PM Please stop this killer' p2.jpg
1077K



'Dear PM Please stop this killer' p3.jpg
1467K



'Dear PM Please stop this killer' p4.jpg
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 Family pleas for support to get B vaccine on the free national schedule.pdf
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